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Clearance Sale YESTER

Two Cases Tried Before Judge Edings.

DECISION OF SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court Sus'ains Fir.t Circuit Verdict in Matter of Christley Deed.

The First Judge of the First Circuit Court was occupied all day yesterday with the argument and matter in connection with the reports of the grand ter had been dealing with a third party jury on the charges of bribery in the Legislature. The particulars appear elsewhere.

JUDGE EDINGS' COURT.

The assumpsit case of Schweitzer & Co. vs. Chas. J. Fishel was taken up waived. F. W. Hankey appeared for the plaintiff and Magoon & Thompson for the defendant.

The case was argued and submitted before the noon hour, and the matter was taken under consideration by the court.

The case of Lum Sung Company et al vs. Marian C. Luning, which is an action on contract, came up in the afternoon, Magoon & Thompson appearing for the plaintiff and F. W. Hankey for the defendant.

The contract upon which the suit was based was objected to by counsel for defendant, upon the ground that it vas signed by only one member of the company bringing suit, and upon motion of Mr. Hankey the court ruled that the contract could not be admitted in evidence. This ruling practically defeated the plaintiff's case, and counsel for plaintiff rested the matter with the court; counsel for the defendand rested also, and moved the court to direct the jury to return a verdict plaintiff's fallure to tender to the defendfor non-suit. This the court did, and ants what they hald paid out under the

Koki, Thos. J. Quinn, Wm. M. Cunning- the latter had failed to render one, and ham, Wm. B. Rice, Wm. H. McInerny, Walter M. Pomroy, James L. Aholo Von Holt Block, King Street and Vincent Fernandez.

COURT NOTES. the estate of Kaalewai Pearson, has filed his final account, charging himself with \$360 and asking to be allowed \$220.25, and petitioning for allowance of accounts and final distribution and discharge. An the hearing of such petition will be had on Monday, July 1, at 10 o'clock a. m.

The defendant in the case of J. A. Ma-

DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS. In the action for divorce of Libana de Nobrega vs. Sylvano de Nobrega, the defendant yesterday filed an answer to the amended complaint of plaintiff.

exceptions and transcript on appeal.

In addition to the general denial of all the allegations of the complaint, the defendant alleges that on April 13, 1899, he conveyed by deed, in fee simple, to Joe de Nobrega, son of plaintiff and defendant, a certain house and lot in Nuuanu valley of the value of \$3,500, with the object, purpose and understanding that the same would immediately be conveyed to suft. the plaintiff for her sole use, benefit and maintenance; the said premises were so conveyed on April 13, and that she has ever since been in possession of same. Also that from September 28, 1898,

January 25, 1901, defendant paid to plaintiff the sum of \$6 per week for their support and maintenance, and that ever since the latter date he has been at all times ready and willing to pay the same, although plaintiff has failed to demand and receive sa.d \$6 per week.

J. M. Long is attorney for the defend-

CHRISTLEY VS. MAGOON DECISION. The Supreme Court yesterday rendered decision in the equity case of Thomas Christley vs. J. A. ...agoon and Emmeline M. Magoon, which was submitted on December 26, 1900. The decision was in favor of Christley.

The case was a suit to cancel a deed dated November 2, 1898, from plaintiff to defendant Emmeline M. Magoon of 2.47 acres of land on the easterly side of Fort street, between School and Vineyard streets, in Honolulu; the consideration named in the deed was \$10,000, although the real consideration was an oral promise to pay the plaintiff's debts, amounting to \$4,000 and a written promise to pay the plaintiff \$75 per month for the remainder of his life.

The deed was held to have been procured through undue influence, as shown by the existence of the confidential relationships of attorney and client and principal and agent between the parties, the mental weaknesses of the plaintiff and the inadequacy of the consideration. The grounds relied upon are fraud and

The opinion is by Justice Frear, and Judge Edings sat in place of Justice Perry, disqualified. Hatch and Silliman and J. T. De Bolt were attorneys for the plaintiff, and Kinney, Ballou & McClana-

han for defendant. The syllabus of Justice Frear's opinion been the plaintiff's agent in respect to the plaintiff's property in question, collecting rents, paying taxes, etc., and advising him professionally in matters of law; that plaintiff trusted him implicitly; that plaintiff was simple and absentminded and susceptible to influence, that plaintiff's wife had left him and that he

remainder of his life, and to pay off his \$4,000 debts in return for the property; that the plaintiff, wishing to escape the cares and responsibilities of the property, agreed to this and signed the deed, the consideration being grossly inadequate to the worth of the property, the rentals alone bringing in \$113 or more per month, and the property of the value, at the minimum estimate, of \$25,000; that subsequently plaintiff's wife returned to him and they became reconciled, and that plaintiff's eyes were then opened to the nature of the business deal he had made. The opinion then concludes:

"We need not go into the question as

to whether the plaintiff, as he now claims, thought he was signing a deed, in trust for his children, subject to the payment of \$75 a month to him for life out of the rents. There is certainly much evidence that it is difficult to reconcile with that theory, as well as some in support of it. We may even assume that the defendants thought they were being magnanimous toward the plaintiff, at least to the extent of thinking that the new arrangement was better for him, considering all his troubles, than the old. But in view of the then existing relationship of principal and agent with reference to this property, the relationship of attorney and client, the plaintiff's weaknesses and his trust in the defendants, the defendants' interest in the transaction, and the inadequacy of the consideration, equity must on wellestablished principles undo the transaction. The presumption from such relationships is against the defendants. It is for them to show adequacy of consideration and that the parties were dealing with each other at arm's length or that they advised and acted with reference to the plaintiff's interests, as if the lat-The plaintiff, while he may have understood that that was done which was done, apparently did not fully realize what it all meant. He trusted to the defendants to do what was best for him The presumption of undue influence arises from the existence of the fiduciary or confidential relationship. Such relationship in this connection has a broad by Judge Edings yesterday, jury being meaning. It includes the relationship of attorney and client and even that of principal and agent. The presumption is stronger where the relationship exists in respect of the property in question, where the party claiming to be injuriously affected is mentally inferior to the other, and where the consideration paid is not clearly adequate. This presumption arises in the present case and has not

been overcome. "The defendants further rely on ratification or acquiescence, on the ground that if he did not realize what was done at the time, he did afterwards and yet continued to accept for several months the payments of \$75 a month and to recognize the transaction in other ways. A complete answer to this is that the influence which the defendants ercised over the plaintiff and the confidence he reposed in them continued during this period. He was, as already noted, living with the defendants in their home. He does not appear to have acted with any intent to recognize the validity of the transaction after he was removed from such influ-

"The defendants further rely on the Dimond & Co., jury in the case was as follows: E. C. annuty. The planting in the defendant, Holstein, Solomon Peck, Walter A. Hardy, Albert E. Lloyd, Solomon D. Mr. Magoon, for an account, but that the latter had failed to render one, and he prays for an accounting. The defendants had been in possession and received the rents of the land and, for aught that the plaintiff knew, so far as appears, had received more than they paid out. The John S. Prendergast, administrator of defendant, Mr. Magoon, testified that the mortgage debt, which was more than half of the \$4,000 indebtedness, was not paid until after the suit was commenced. At the hearing the plaintiff offered to pay all that the desendants had paid out order has been issued giving notice that under the agreement. Apparently no question as to tender was raised in the lower court. The Court decreed not only that the deed was null and void and that goon vs. Louis Marks has filed his bill of it be set aside and cancelled, and that the defendant, Mrs. Magoon, be a trustee for the plaintiff of the property in question, and that the defendants execute a deed of the property to the plaintiff, and account to nim for all moneys received by them therefrom and as his agent, but also made an tuese conditional upon his paying to them or into court all sums paid by them towards the \$4,000 debts and \$75 payments. Under these circumstances the defendants are amply protected, and it would not be equitable to allow them to now rely upon failure to make a tender prior to bringing the

"Of course those who took leases of the property from Mrs. Magoon after she acquired title under the deed in question would not be affected by the decree in this case, for they are not parties. We presume, also, that they would not be affected even if they were parties, for the reason that they took innocently. But it may be that if the deed were set aside as null and void at the time of its execution, Christley would technically have a right of action against the Magoons for having made the leases, even though he might be able to recover only nominal damages, for apparently the leases were made on terms as favorable to the lessor as could be obtained. He who seeks equity must do equity. Christley was not altogether blameless. He was aware of the execution of the leases and while we do not go so far as to hold that his knowledge and failure to object operates as an estoppel against his setting up undue influence, because the undue influence continued, yet he may as a matter of equity be given relief only on condition that he place the defendants as far as possible in their former position. He has elected to come into equity rather than go to law. In our opinion it will be as much as he can fairly ask so far as the deed is concerned to have Mrs. Magoon declared a trustee for him and to convey the property to him subjec tto the leases, and not to declare the deed null and void and order it cancelled.

"The case is remanded to the Circuit Judge with directions to modify the decree in conformity with these views and for such further proceedings as may be

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